



Elizabeth Waltman, Executive Director for United Blood Services New Mexico, was recently selected as a “Top Performing CEO” by New Mexico Business Weekly publication.

In her 30-year career in blood banking, Elizabeth has worked in nearly every part of a blood bank and was promoted to executive director at United Blood Services about five years ago. Elizabeth oversees 198 employees and a \$29 million budget for New Mexico and the Four Corners region which serves 43 hospitals and will collect about 80,000 red blood cells this year.

The honor, which is new to New Mexico this year, comes right on the heels of Elizabeth completing her MBA. “Now, I feel much more confident in my decision-making,” Elizabeth says.

Her community involvement includes the American Association of Blood Banks, South Central Association of Blood Banks (past president), March of Dimes’ High Heels for High Hopes, Rotary Club of Albuquerque del Norte, graduate of Leadership Albuquerque, and Christina Kent Day Nursery board.

In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys hitting the road on her Yamaha VMAX, working in her garden, and is an accomplished potter. She is married to Paul Waltman.

Congratulations to Elizabeth for being recognized for her strong leadership which is more important than ever in these difficult economic times.

**Dustin R. Conover
Satellite Collections Manager,
Donor Services**

I manage four satellite collection centers and the flagship center for the Oklahoma Blood Institute. I have been with the OBI for less than 3 years but hit the ground running after starting as supervisor in July 2007. Prior to moving to Oklahoma from the San Francisco Bay area I was a soldier and military contract instructor with 16 years combined, consecutive federal service. I have represented my country’s interests in many third-world countries and war zones as a highly skilled, airborne qualified medic (among many other duties) and have witnessed first-hand the traumatic effects of warfare on military personnel and civilian populations. This experience drives me to aid my organization in providing the best quality blood products we can

for our community. I am a perpetual student and enjoy a university environment whenever my schedule permits it. I never tire of learning new things and try to evolve my leadership with each newly learned experience. I concentrate much of my focus at work on process improvement and I am committed to my supervisors, whom I feel possess the greatest capacity to make the largest impact towards our collective success. I am deeply committed to my wife and two children and enjoy cycling, renaissance art, drawing figures, reading, horseback riding, parachuting, playing baseball and football with my 4 year old son as well as singing Hannah Montana songs and drawing with my 5 year old daughter. I frequently volunteer my time and have worked with the Central Oklahoma chapter of Habitat for Humanity, the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, and Mateo’s Dream as well as volunteer work with my children’s Christian school.

**Stephanie Babin
Blood Donor and Apheresis Recruiter**

I have worked in blood banking for 18 years. I am currently a Blood Donor/Apheresis Recruiter, but have worked in almost every aspect of the operation. I have worked in component production, hospital services, dis-

tribution, autologous peripheral stem cell program, blood donor technician and apheresis technician. I feel that my vast background has made the transition to my current position much easier. It has enabled me to have a closer relationship with the donor techs than most recruiters because I’m able to assist them out on mobiles when necessary.

**Tison Hudson, RN, BSN
Transfusion Safety Manager**

After graduating from Texas Southern University in Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, I started working at Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (GCRBC) as a processing tech for almost two years. Then I went to The University of Texas - Houston Health Science Center and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. As a nurse,

I have primarily worked in the intensive care unit for the past five years. Now, I have returned to GCRBC as the Transfusion Safety Manager. As the Transfusion Safety Manager, my primary responsibility is to ensure patient safety by educating healthcare staff on transfusion-related practices.

For more information on South Central’s Protégé / Mentor Program, visit www.scabb.org > **Membership** or call 866-649-6550 for more details.

With the 2010 Annual Meeting around the corner, the Donor Recruitment and Collections Committee have been busy planning events. This year you can look forward to broadening your knowledge in these exciting topics, Lean Principals to Mobile Staging, Type Matters, Recruitment & Retention of Young Donors, The Magic Begins with You, and Developmental Counseling of Blood Collection Staff. The committee has lined up expert guest speakers for each topic.

This year’s roundtable discussion will be equally interesting. Open topics will be Recruiting Schools; New Strategies in Hard Economic Times; and Right Type, Right Donation, Right Time.

This year’s committee members include Stephanie Babin, co-chair; Rebecca Gardner, co-chair; Chris Ward; Linda Mazik; Connie Born; Beverly Whitney-Cooper; Nancy Mowry; Susanne Bourgeois; Sarah Williams; and Maria Webb.